

A3
cncld.

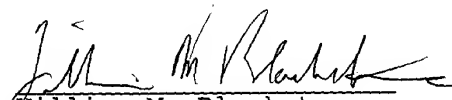
incubating the peripheral blood mononuclear cells with at least one peptide according to claim 1; and detecting a response of the peripheral blood mononuclear cells to the presence of the peptide. *mm*

REMARKS

Claims 2 - 4 and 6 - 8 are amended, claim 5 is canceled and claims 9 - 12 are added, hereby. Claims 1 - 4 and 6 - 12 are presented for examination. These amendments are presented to conform the language of the claims to accepted U.S. patent practice, to eliminate multiple dependencies, to specifically recite particular embodiments and to claim additional aspects of the invention disclosed in the specification without limiting the scope of the claims as first written and not for reasons of patentability under 35 U.S.C.

It is believed that claims 1 - 4 and 6 - 12 recite a patentable improvement in the art. Favorable action is solicited. In the event any fees are required with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2334.

Respectfully submitted,


William M. Blackstone
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 29,772

Attorney Docket NO. O/98393 US
Akzo Nobel Patent Department
1300 Piccard Drive, Suite 206
Rockville, Maryland 20850-4373
Tel: (301) 948-7400
Fax: (301) 948-9751
WMB:jlc
11VERHEIJDEN-PRELIMINARY